

sincere congratulations to the Rhode Island team for a job well done.●

NORMAN L. KIRKHAM

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the many years of service Norman "Norm" L. Kirkham has provided to the people of southern West Virginia. For the last 19 years, Mr. Kirkham has held the position of executive director of the West Virginia Region I Planning and Development Council and worked tirelessly on various projects during the 10 years prior to that. This organization is a non-profit public agency that coordinates with the Federal, State, and local governments to provide comprehensive planning for the coalfields of southern West Virginia. After numerous years of working with the citizens of McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming Counties to improve their quality of life and develop the regional economy, Norm is retiring effective October 31, 2005.

Many of Norm's colleagues praise him for his active role as the driving force behind the scenes, turning proposed plans and ideas into economic realities for southern West Virginia. One such example is a project to bring a new Federal prison to McDowell County, West Virginia. Over the last decade, I have worked alongside Norm to help develop a site for the prison and secure approval for the prison. As a result of his relentless hard work and determination, the new Federal prison will create 350 high-paying jobs in an area that desperately needs them. I am enormously proud to have worked with Norm on this and so many projects.

During his tenure as executive director, Norm has helped to secure funds to provide flood relief to the flood-prone valleys and riverbanks of southern West Virginia, enhanced the water systems in towns such as Princeton, Welch, and Union, and lobbied for grant money to support senior citizen centers. In addition to advancing specific economic development projects, Norm has helped ease access to technology, sewage, and other forms of infrastructure throughout southern West Virginia.

Without a doubt, Norm has contributed a great deal to his agency and to the people of southern West Virginia. His contributions are even more impressive when one considers the dire need for economic development in the southern West Virginia coalfields. Traditionally, the economy of southern West Virginia has relied heavily on the coal industry. Through coordination and planning, Norm and his agency have helped diversify the region's economy and tremendously enhance the infrastructural needs that are vital to development in southern West Virginia. Many successful economic development sites can be attributed to Norm's dedication to promoting and developing economic prosperity for every person and family in his region.

Public servants in his line of work normally do not receive the recognition they deserve. Our State needs more people like Norm who dedicate their entire professional careers to ensure that people have adequate employment, roads, water, sewage, and other services and infrastructural needs commonly taken for granted.

Always modest and never in the lime-light, Norm is firmly rooted in rural Summers County where he inherited the values that make southern West Virginia a unique and wonderful area—service to community and nation and dedication to family and neighbors. Through his hard work and integrity, Norm has earned the respect of every local official in southern West Virginia; Federal and State officials; Governors, past and present; and the Members of the congressional delegation.

In retirement, Norm can more fully devote himself to what he cherishes most in life—his family, his Summers County farm and his community. He will surely be missed at Region I and throughout all of West Virginia, but he leaves a career of good work that will last generations.

I will sincerely miss working with Norm but I suspect even in retirement, some very worthwhile community projects are going to find themselves in need of a seasoned volunteer just like him. Regardless, I wish him the very best.●

HONORING COLONEL JOSEPH JULIAN McLACHLAN

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of COL Joseph Julian McLachlan. Colonel McLachlan is a World War II hero and a proud Air Force veteran who died at the age of 85 in late July. Next week, he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. With the honors of a full military funeral, he will take his rightful place alongside America's greatest heroes, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans going back to the American Revolution.

Born in 1920, Joseph McLachlan enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the start of World War II. He completed his pilot training and was commissioned in 1942. As part of the famed 368th Fighter Group, McLachlan flew two strafing missions in support of ground troops on D-Day. Six days later, he was shot down and hid behind enemy lines until he could rejoin American troops. Over the course of the war, he completed 91 missions as a P-47 pilot. He earned a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, 17 Air Medals, and the Legion of Merit.

Today, more than 60 years later, it is hard to recapture the tremendous uncertainty that America faced at the eve of the Normandy invasion. Operation Overlord employed more than 5,000 ships and landing craft, more than 12,000 airplanes, and more than 150,000 troops. Their bravery carried the day and led to the victory of freedom and

democracy over tyranny and oppression. Ordinary Americans like Joseph McLachlan gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission this country has ever taken on. The world owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

After the war, McLachlan stayed in the military. In 1948, he flew 44 missions in the Berlin Airlift, one of the first major crises of the Cold War. A command pilot, McLachlan led a B-47 Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He was vice-commander of Zaragoza Air Base in Spain and Commander of Lincoln Air Base in Nebraska. He retired as Chief of Foreign Liaison at the Pentagon.

After leaving the military, Colonel McLachlan went on to have a successful 19-year career in the private sector. His greatest legacy is his large and loving family. He had 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandsons.

Mr. President, COL Joseph McLachlan was a great American. As we prepare to lay his remains to rest at Arlington, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Saunders, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1413. An act to redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1786. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make emergency airport improvement project grants-in-aid under title 49, United States Code, for repairs and costs related to damage from Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).